

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-16 and 34-42 were pending in this application, with Claims 1, 35 and 42 being independent.

Claims 1, 4-5, 9-10, 35 and 42 have been amended.

Claims 2-3 and 37 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of that which is defined thereby.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 4-6, 9-15, 34-36 and 38-42 remain presented herein for prosecution.

Applicant acknowledges the indication that Claim 3 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which Applicant thanks the Examiner. The claims have thus been amended.

More specifically, Claims 1, 35 and 42 have been amended to incorporate directly or through dependency the recitations of Claim 3, which have been indicated as allowable.

Upon entry hereof, Claims 1, 4-6, 9-15, 34-36 and 38-42 are now presented for consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be.

Applicant turns now to the Action.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 9, 10 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, for the reasons given at page 2 of the Action.

Applicants' claim amendments address and overcome the stated rejections.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Sections 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 35, 36, 38, 40 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over International Patent Publication No. WO 03/064275 ("WO '275") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0063078 (Garrett) for the reasons given at pages 2-5 of the Action;

Claims 2, 4, 5, 34 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,398,067 (Belfance) for the reasons given at pages 5-6 of the Action;

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication

No. 2004/0217032 (Cunningham) for the reasons given at pages 6-7 of the Action;

Claim 39 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0029756 (Vasudeva) for the reasons given at page 7 of the Action; and

Claim 42 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over WO '275 in view of Garrett, Vasudeva, Belfance and Cunningham for the reasons given at page 7 of the Action.

Applicant traverses the Section 103(a) rejections.

Without agreeing with or conceding the propriety of the Section 103(a) rejections, Applicants have introduced claim amendments consistent with the Examiner's determination in the Action at page 8, paragraph 35 of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejections are respectfully requested.

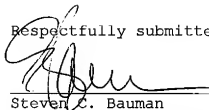
In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been addressed, and they should no longer be maintained. Applicants further submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests such an indication in the next written communication.

Application No. 10/599,688
Amendment After Final Rejection dated January 8, 2010
Office Action dated November 24, 2009

In any event this paper represents an earnest attempt at advancing prosecution on the merits, and at the very least sharpens the issues for appeal. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that entry thereof is proper.

To the extent that the Examiner does not believe that the present paper places the application in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (860) 571-5001 or by facsimile at (860) 571-5028. All correspondence should be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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